IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A separator for a battery, which is coated with a gel polymer over 40-60% of a total separator area based on a surface of the separator to be coated with the gel polymer,

wherein the separator is partially coated with a gel polymer in which coated or non-coated areas form a pattern.

2. (Original) The separator of claim 1, wherein the gel polymer is coated on the separator by a gravure coating method.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The separator of claim 1, wherein the gel polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF); polyethylene glycol diacrylate; polyalkylene glycol diacrylates; polyalkylene glycol dimethacrylates; ether polymers; carbonate polymers; acrylonitrile polymers; copolymers and crosslinked polymers consisting of at least two of ~~them~~the foregoing polymers; and fluoropolymers.

5. (Currently amended) An electrode assembly for a rechargeable lithium battery, which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a separator for a battery, wherein the separator is coated with a gel polymer over 40-60% of a total separator area based on a surface of the separator to be coated with the gel polymer,

wherein the separator is partially coated with a gel polymer in which coated or non-coated areas form a pattern.

6. (Previously presented) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising an electrode assembly as defined in claim 5, a positive terminal, a negative terminal and an aluminum-laminated film,

wherein the separator is partially coated with a gel polymer in which coated or non-

coated areas form a pattern.

7. (Previously presented) The rechargeable lithium battery of claim 6, wherein the gel polymer is coated on the separator by a gravure coating method.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The rechargeable lithium battery of claim 6, wherein the gel polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF); polyethylene glycol diacrylate; polyalkylene glycol diacrylates; polyalkylene glycol dimethacrylates; ether polymers; carbonate polymers; acrylonitrile polymers; copolymers and crosslinked polymers consisting of at least two of ~~them~~the foregoing polymers; and fluoropolymers.

10. (Previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 5, wherein the gel polymer is coated on the separator by a gravure coating method.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The electrode assembly of claim 5, wherein the gel polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF); polyethylene glycol diacrylate; polyalkylene glycol diacrylates; polyalkylene glycol dimethacrylates; ether polymers; carbonate polymers; acrylonitrile polymers; copolymers and crosslinked polymers consisting of at least two of ~~them~~the foregoing polymers; and fluoropolymers.